

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----011826 094882 /46

P R 011710Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4136
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0621

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR
SUBJECT: PRESS PLAY ON WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS

REFS: BONN 3545, USBERLIN 0598

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS ACTIVELY REPORTED WOLF-RUEDIGER
HESS PRESS INTERVIEW DURING WHICH HE REPORTED HIS
FATHER'S SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND LEVELED STRONG CRITICISM
AT WESTERN POWERS. HE ALSO ALLEGED THE EXISTENCE
OF A QUOTE SECRET REGULATION END QUOTE WHICH COULD
RESULT IN THE UK BEING SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS
FATHER. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS HEAVILY REPORTED WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS
PRESS INTERVIEW WHICH TOOK PLACE AT BERLIN HILTON
MONDAY FEBRUARY 28. BILD ZEITUNG DID AND BZ WERE
ONLY PAPERS TO GIVE STORY FRONTPAGE PROMINENCE,
AND BILD ZEITUNG DID SO WITH HEADLINE "HESS' SON
UNVEILS THE SECRET (MYSTERY) OF SPANDAU". ITEM WAS
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ALSO REPORTED ON LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS.

2. WOLF-RUEDIGER REPORTED THAT HIS FATHER TOLD HIM
THAT HE WANTED TO END IT ALL. WOLF-RUEDIGER STATED
THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD BEAR FULLY RESPONSIBILITY
IF HIS FATHER SHOULD DIE. HE DEMANDED THAT HIS FATHER
BE MOVED IMMEDIATELY INTO A HOSPITAL, AND WAS QUOTED

ON NEWSCASTS AS HAVING SAID THAT QUOTE I WANT TO STRESS THAT MY FATHER'S SUICIDE ATTEMPT IS ONLY THE FINAL RESULT OF A PERMANENT AND, AS IT WAS, SYSTEMATIC EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN. IN THIS SITUATION, WHERE A PREMEDITATED AND CRUEL MURDER IS TAKING PLACE, THE WESTERN ALLIES CANNOT SIMPLY FALL BACK ON THE CHEAP ARGUMENT THAT THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION IS STALLING. END QUOTE.

3. WOLF-RUEDIGER CLAIMED THAT A SECRET REGULATION EXISTED WHEREBY QUOTE IF ONE STATE WITHDRAWS FROM ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN GOVERNING THE PRISON, THEN THE PRISON MUST BE DISSOLVED...AND THE PRISONER MUST BE RETURNED TO THE NATION WHICH ORIGINALLY HELD HIM CAPTIVE. END QUOTE. THIS, HE ARGUED, WOULD RETURN HESS TO THE BRITISH, WHO ARE ON PUBLIC RECORD FAVORING HESS' RELEASE.

4. WOLF-RUEDIGER WAS ACCOMPANIED TO THE INTERVIEW BY FORMER FRG JUSTICE MINISTER BUCHER (AS THE SENIOR HESS' ATTORNEY) AND BY FORMER U.S. GOVERNOR FOR SPANDAU, LTC EUGENE BIRD, RET. BIRD SAID IN HIS VIEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN SPANDAU NO LONGER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH NAZISM, BUT AS A SYMBOL OF HATE, REVENGE AND CRUELTY. WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS AND BUCHER VISITED PRISON AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE, AS THEY WELL KNEW, THEY WERE REFUSED ADMITTANCE. PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE, OF COURSE, PRESENT.

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5. COMMENT, WOLF-RUEDIGER HAS CLEARLY MADE A DECISION TO WAGE A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO FREE HIS FATHER, EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS (OR SHOULD KNOW) THAT THE SOVITS WILL REACT MOST UNFAVORABLY, BOTH TO THE PROPOSAL OF FREEING HIS FATHER AND TO ANY FUTURE VISITS BY WOLF-RUEDIGER. IN MAKING PUBLIC HIS INTERVIEW WITH HESS, WOLF-RUEDIGER HAS UNDER PRISON REGULATIONS GIVEN GOOD GROUNDS FOR LIKELY SOVIT OBJECTION TO HIS FATHER VISITS. WOLF-RUEDIGER'S REFERENCE TO A " SECRET REGULATION" IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. WOLF-RUEDIGER HAS APPARENTLY MADE THIS CLAIM BEFORE. POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONFUSION (ACCORDING TO UK BER LEGAL ADVISER) IS SPEER'S MEMOIRS. IN THE LATE RP'S, IT SEEMS THE PRISONERS IN SPANDAU SPECULATED AMONGST THEMSELVES WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM IF THE ALLIES LEFT BERLIN. THEIR REPEAT THEIR CONCLUSION WAS THAT PRISONERS WOULD BE RETURNED TO COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED, AND SPANDAU AS A PRISON WOULD BE DISCONTINUED. IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO GENERATE

PRESSURE FOR WESTERN POWERS TO SEEK TO RELEASE HESS,
WOLF-RUEDIGER HAS SIMPLY DECIDED TO FORGET THAT HESS
CAN NEITHER BE RELEASED NOR HOSPITALIZED WITHOUT
FOUR POWER(MEANING SOVIET) CONCURRENCE.

6. AT OPENING OF US EMBASSY BERLIN ON
FEBRUARY29, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV
TOLD MISOFF WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS COULD VISIT HIS
FATHER DURING MARCH " WHENEVER HE HAS TIME". HOWEVER,
KHOTULEV MADE THIS REMAKR BEFORE PRESSCONFERENCE
AT HILTON. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SOVIETS,
WHO GUARD SPANDAU DURING MARCH AND CAN THEREFORE
BLOCK ANY VISITS, WILL PERMIT WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS
THE ONE VISIT HIS FATHERIS ENTITLED TO EACH MONTH
IN LIGHT OF WOLF-RUEDIGER'S WELL PUBLICIZED ACTIVITIES.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, ALLEGATIONS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0547
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703103/aaaadnkt.tel
Line Count: 131
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1f5988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 3545, 77 USBERLIN 598
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2946167
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS PLAY ON WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR, (HESS, WOLF-RUEDIGER), (HESS, RUDOLPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f5988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009